

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY2006 BUDGETS)**

April 20, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines calls for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Roy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas (late), Guinta (late), Sysyn, Osborne,
Porter, O’Neil (late), Lopez, Shea, Garrity, Smith, Thibault

Absent: Aldermen DeVries and Forest

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2006 municipal budget, the proposed Community Improvement Program for the Fiscal Year 2006 to 2011 period in accordance with the procedures established in RSA 44:10, and in satisfaction of any other local, state or federal law that may apply. Mayor Baines notes that the Clerk shall present the resolutions, the subject of which contain all of the appropriations presented proposed, following which a brief presentation may be made and public comments will be heard.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolutions:

“Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2006.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of \$142,203,719 for the Fiscal Year 2006.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of \$5,512,450 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for Fiscal Year 2006.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Aggregation Program the sum of \$834,682 from Aggregation Fees for the Fiscal Year 2006.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$57,057,100 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 2006.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$3,245,749 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 2006.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$15,184,335 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 2006.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$1,074,691 for the Fiscal Year 2006.”

“Appropriating all Incremental Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Received by the City in Fiscal Year 2006 and held in the Civic Center Fund, for the payment of the City’s Obligations in Said Fiscal Year Under the Financing Agreement.”

“Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2006, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$225,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 2006.”

“Continuation of the Central Business Service District.”

Mayor Baines advises that the meeting shall be open to public comment; that each person when recognized shall come to the nearest microphone, state their name and address in a clear and loud voice for the record; that each person shall be given one opportunity to speak and comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak; that once all present have been allowed to speak should there be a topic not discussed those wishing to speak a second time shall be provided the opportunity to do so.

Sharon DePietro, Manchester stated:

I am here on behalf of the YMCA YOU Program. YOU was specifically designed for the Manchester Center City over 14 years ago. YOU is a curriculum licensed after school enrichment program. Because of funding like yours we are able to offer a sliding scale tuition with 80% of our families paying \$6 or less. Our student to teacher ratio is 10:1. We have a very structured day. One of the most important parts of our day is homework assistance. Children are helped with their homework by group teachers and volunteers. 60% of our students come from English as a Second Language homes. I would like to tell you some of the neat things about YOU. 40% of our staff has special education background. Over 20% of our students are coded. We have hired three bilingual teachers to meet the increasing diversity in our community. We instill community pride by engaging our students and their families in Adopt-A-Block and we do a month long segment where the children learn about and visit City government, City departments and also Manchester’s cultural places. We stress conflict through peer mediation and most importantly non-violence. We are housed at Beech Street and Wilson Schools. Again we have daily communication with school personnel. Some days it is as simple as getting a note home from mom or making sure they do their homework. Other days it is working with the school on behavior problems or health. Also because we are housed at the schools it gives the students the opportunity to stay after school each day and join their school chorus, or computer club or such. Students and families usually stay with the YOU program from kindergarten through fifth grade. They trust us. They come to us in their time of conflict. Many times we can handle it right within the program itself by reducing tuition or helping with food or advising them to go to other resources. Your funds enable us to offer a very high quality program at a very low cost. I hope you will continue to fund this program.

Meghan Brady, Manchester stated:

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be here tonight and to thank you for your past support for our program. I am with St. Joseph's Community Services and we provide the community dining and the Meals on Wheels Program. I wanted to thank you and say that the Manchester dollars that we receive are an important part of every single meal that we serve because the funding that we receive from the state and federal government does not cover the full cost of a meal. A meal costs this much and this is what we get for reimbursement so it is an important part of each meal served and even with that we are currently over serving our contract. The money doesn't come in bulk. It is a per meal reimbursement for so many meals. Around the beginning of June we run out of meals every year. The state contract ends at the end of June so the funding we receive helps there also. We continue to try to fill in and do our own part. We have coming up our Ballroom Gala to benefit Meals on Wheels. It is going to be held on May 1 and anybody who is interested in tickets can call 424-9967. We also have a significant volunteer group that helps us every year – over 500 people and our auditors assign a value to that of over \$232,000 of help that we receive county wide every year and if anybody is interested in volunteering for us they can call 424-9967 or if they want any information about our program at all they can call 424-9967. This also has our website on it. It is mealsonwheelsnh.org so you can get more information about our program that way. A couple of years ago we switched to a local kitchen that is here in Manchester and they are the ones that deliver the food fresh to our sites every single day. The food goes out from there and is probably delivered by volunteers into the local community. When I first started, and it will be 10 years for me in July, we had 28 meal routes. We are now up to 49 countywide. We are seeing a significant increase. In that 10 years I have also seen an increase in the average age of the clients that we provide services to. A couple of years ago, three years ago 35% of our clients were over the age of 80. Now it is 44%. We are seeing an increase in that and something else I am seeing an increase on and I will end with that are issues regarding elder abuse and financial exploitation. You here in Manchester have a wonderful police officer, Jeff Bolduc, who works with those issues along with other groups – the District Office of the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services but we often work hand-in-hand with them on these issues. I brought menus too if anybody is interested in that and I thank you for your past support and ask you to continue to support our program that meets the needs of so many people in the City. Thank you.

Renie Denton, Manchester stated:

I am the Executive Director of the Manchester Community Resource Center. Thank you very much for allowing me to come in and speak to you again this year. Manchester Community Resource Center opened its doors in 1998 as one of the programs of the enterprise community. Our goal was to work with the employment and training needs of the low-income immigrants and refugees, some of Manchester's most difficult to employ. When we opened our doors we were a member of a collaborative that consisted of Southern NH Services, the HOPE Resource Center and Catholic Charities. The initial goal was for us to

become independent and become a 501-C3. We have done that. It took us five years to do it. In August of 2003 we woke up that morning and came to work and we were an independent organization. We came to the City and asked for some funds and when we came we told you that our pledge was that we would ask for so many years and each year we would decrease the amount we were asking for. Last year I came and asked you for \$50,000. This year I come before you and ask you for \$40,000. Last year the Planning Department came up with this wonderful innovative idea of how we could partner with four local organizations that had similar goals working in the Center City. One was INTERCED, which provides computers for the low-income households at a very reasonable price or free. The other was City Year, which works with our young adults. The other was Micro Credit, which assists with small business development. The fourth one was Odyssey Youth Rebuild that works with young adults up to the age of 24 giving them the employment and training skills that they need. What we did is we joined partnerships with these four agencies. They work through a contract with us and this helps the City leverage funds. We are able to work with each other to make sure that we are not duplicating services and we are providing the services that are needed in the community. We are doing it again this year. Although we asked for \$40,000, you will see in your budget we are hopefully going to be allocated \$85,000. \$10,000 will go to each of those agencies and \$5,000 will come to us for an administrative fee. I think that is pretty reasonable for the amount of services that you get. We run some wonderful programs. We coordinate our services with all of the non-profit organizations and businesses in the area to make sure that the City gets the best bang for its buck. We do a great job and I am really proud of what we do and we couldn't do it without the support of all of you. Thank you very much.

Bob Hybsch, Manchester stated:

I am the Board Chair of Intown Manchester. My full-time job I work for Public Service of NH. Since the creation of Intown Manchester in 1996 we have enjoyed the support of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. If you recall, Intown Manchester was created originally to provide support services for the Central Business Service District, which we have done since that time. I come before you tonight to give you a quick update. We have recently completed Phase II of the Millyard Project Improvement Plan. There were a lot of hardscape improvements to public spaces, which included repairs to sidewalks and tree wells and we repainted rusted light poles, ballasts and railings. Thanks to the Manchester Highway Department for providing a lot of the management for this improvement plan. This past Friday Intown Manchester completed the coordination of Adopt-A-Block for downtown. We brought together over 150 business volunteers in downtown Manchester to do some raking and spreading mulch and to beautify some of the downtown areas. Also on that day we planted the flowers in the flowerpots along Elm Street. Intown's annual stakeholder meeting is scheduled for May 23. We will be unveiling our benchmark downtown study, which in addition to being a marketing tool for the City lays the foundation for chronicling the community development progress in the future. We thank you for your past support and your continued vision of an ever improving downtown and Millyard district. Specifically,

we appreciate your direct support of Intown for the continuation of the concert and event sponsors and the new holiday winter street lighting project for this coming year. We appreciate your support for understanding the need for ongoing maintenance in the Millyard. The Millyard Business Park is a demonstration of high level cooperation between the public and private sectors here in Manchester, which has resulted in significant capital investment by the community. We look forward to future public support to improve median strips, entranceways and parking facilities in the Millyard. Thank you for your time.

Lisa Boyd, Manchester stated:

I am the Interim Executive Director for Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services. MNHS, which is a partnership between the residents of Manchester, the City government and the local corporate sector has spent over 12 years and over \$20 million to revitalize Manchester's low income neighborhoods. Housing affordability in Manchester is reaching crisis proportions for all but the wealthiest households. The real estate market has climbed dramatically over the past five years making both rental housing and home ownership unaffordable for a large percentage of Manchester's households. The National Association of Home Builders lists the Lowell, MA/Southern NH area as one of the 25 most unaffordable housing markets in the country. Pressures from the Massachusetts market, along with New Hampshire's quality of life continue to push north. The high cost of acquiring land and buildings for redevelopment as affordable housing has hindered MNHS's revitalization activities and production of affordable housing. It has forced many of our homebuyers living and working in Manchester to look outside the City in their search for affordable houses. In order to produce affordable housing opportunities for Manchester there is a need for funds to subsidize the cost of acquisition and development. This year we are requesting assistance to develop approximately 60 units of affordable rental housing, to educate and financially assist and to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to first time home buyers. I would like to thank the City for your past support and we look forward to your future support.

Sal Steven-Hubbard, Manchester stated:

I am the Deputy Director for Neighborhood Development for Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services. I just want to say that we appreciate the City's past support on our rental housing production program and this year's request will generate approximately 60 units of new affordable housing in Ward 7 on Silver, Somerville and Maple Streets in an area that really needs some revitalization work. We are thrilled that we are kind of reaching out into a new part of the City. We feel that we have done a great job in the Center City and we feel like we can do an even better job elsewhere and continue our work. I just wanted to say thank you very much and we look forward to working with you this year.

Linda Dallaire, Manchester stated:

I would like to thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the CIP Committee for your support for the Neighborworks Home Ownership Center. I am the Deputy Director for the Home Ownership Center and I am very thrilled to be here to tell you a little bit about what

we have been doing for the last year. 450 individuals received pre and post purchase home ownership education and financial fitness training at the Center last year. 82 low and moderate-income households purchased homes in the year 2004. We have enrolled over 200 very low income individuals in the individual development account program, which is a program that allows low-income individuals to save \$1 and get a \$3 match for downpayment and closing costs. It is a great program. 51 IDA clients have used their savings and matched savings for their downpayment and closing costs to purchase a home through our program. One of these clients was a low-income single mom with a handicapped daughter who had been searching to buy an affordable home for years. She attended a home ownership seminar and started working with a counselor. She opened an IDA savings account and over a two year period was able to save for her down payment and closing costs. Still, the cost of a two-bedroom condo in Manchester with handicapped accessibility was out of reach. She was approved by MNHS to use her Section 8 voucher to pay down a mortgage versus paying rent. MNHS was able to structure a mortgage using the NH Housing Finance Authority Voucher Assistance Mortgage Option Program. With the subsidy from her Section 8 voucher, her IDA savings and a community improvement grant from the City of Manchester we made her dream of owning an affordable and accessible home for her and her daughter come true. We ask the CIP Committee to continue to support MNHS in its efforts to promote home ownership in the City of Manchester. Thank you.

Ben Okra, Manchester stated:

Good evening. I am privileged to be called again to come in and talk about our program. I am the Executive Director of INTERCED computer training and technology. I am here with Rick Desmarais who is one of our IT employees. He is the Vice President of one of our technology companies and he is the head of our team that helps converting computers. I have Kelly Grinali who is one of our assistants. Like I said I am here for INTERCED. We work jointly with MCRC. What we do is provide...normally we provide computer assistance to low income individuals and we call this program "Computers In Every Home." Last year when we were here to apply for the funds we had an office that was about 100 square feet and that is where we did all of our operations. So far, we have 10 times that space size. We have close to 10,000 square feet of space where we do all of the building and refurbishing of computers. I will share my time with Rick so that he can tell you the infrastructure and also about a document that he is developing. It is a policy and procedure document that he is putting together for us to use back in our office. Also we exceeded our target for this year. Last year we promised that we were going to provide a computer system, 75 computer systems. We have exceeded that and provided about 80 computers. We also provide training to senior citizens and this we do in collaboration with the City of Manchester and other City departments. Seniors are very thrilled when they see the photographs and addresses of the Aldermen. We provide them with training and with a computer system. I will have Rick give you some insight into the infrastructure that he is putting together for us so that we can provide computer systems to low income individuals.

Rick Desmarais, Manchester stated:

We have taken a lot of the best procedures that we have developed at a local company that I work at in the mills and we have sort of implemented those on a smaller scale for INTERCED. We can more quickly deliver the PC's more effectively to these people who need them. We get a lot of donations. Some of the PC's are non-recoverable devices but the devices that are recoverable we can quickly get back on the market and back to people that need them. We have a series of policies and procedures we put in place again based on our experience to do this more effectively.

Mr. Okra stated to add to that the people that we serve normally are on some form of Welfare. They are people with special needs and can hardly afford to purchase computers. Without this program they would have to depend on public places like the Library and employment office and places like that and we know there are time limits when it comes to using those computers there. We also know that in this age we are in without computers it is so hard for students to enhance their knowledge. Thank you so much once again for your support last year and for the rapport that we have with you.

Christina Ericson, Manchester stated:

I am the Director of VNA Childcare. First of all I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past years to our program. We are the largest childcare facility. We serve over 220 children daily under age 5. We are licensed by the State of NH. About 98% of our children are from Manchester and 90% of our families are living in poverty and get assistance from the State and City. One thing you may not know about us is that we give all of our children meals during the day. Our infants have diapers and formula provided free of charge. 25% of our children have chronic illness or disabilities and that far exceeds the number that most childcare centers have. We actually end up being one of the last resorts for many children, especially children who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, ADHD, and oppositional defiance disorder. The VNA Childcare Center is often times the last resort for families to provide services for their children simply because the children sometimes act out when they have these kinds of disorders. Luckily we are able to take in these kids at this time. As you know, funding is tight and it is tight certainly at the State level as well and Federal level so our funding has been cut from all areas. Many childcare centers in the state are closing. A center similar to ours in Nashua just closed. They ran a \$200,000 deficit last year, very similar to the deficit that we will be approaching this year. Some programs have recently announced that they can no longer provide childcare services starting this fall because the state reimbursement rate has not increased and the absentee billing rate is no longer in existence. We hope to continue serving 229 children on a weekly basis. If we had to close our program, we would see at least 300 people tomorrow who could not report to work and an additional 100 folks who would not be able to continue with their job search or go to improve their lives. I ask you to think about that as you consider your funding and where it needs to go. Again, I thank you.

Mary Sliney, Manchester stated:

I am the Executive Director of The Way Home, which is located at 214 Spruce Street here in Manchester. Since three seems to be the powerful number tonight I was going to say I am here to speak for the services of The Way Home but also the Manchester Homeless Continuum of Care so that is two and the Manchester Partners Against Lead Poisoning number three. Primarily I want to say that the Community Improvement Program has an incredible process that has done a tremendous amount of work to build partnerships among folks like those of us who work at The Way Home to address safe and affordable housing needs of Manchester citizens and are partners with the homeless community and the youth service providers in the continuum and those really concerned about the fact that we have 20,000 housing units still burdened with lead paint, which means that we have some more work to do to remove the lead, cover it up and protect children from lead poisoning and we have a collaborative working on that. We are just a sampling of the kinds of partnerships that this process has helped to develop. I am primarily here to say thank you for the continued support and for the sincere commitment that has been requested in this budget and the work of the Community Improvement Program and the entire Board of Mayor and Aldermen for the safe, affordable housing needs of our community. They are not easily addressed in this competitive housing market and the multiple issues that go into doing that. Please honor yourselves as you have given support to some very, very critical issues. I am glad to be here this evening to hear the news about the children and the elders in our community and hope that by working together we can make a significant difference. The Way Home's Housing Resource Center is very much involved in childhood lead poisoning prevention and is working with the Community Improvement Program with the City to hopefully bring in additional funds from the federal government so that we can help property owners. It is very difficult for property owners to be faced with the high cost of getting rid of the lead paint that they didn't put there. It is part of our history. It is a great opportunity to help us work together. Thank you for your support.

Dick Webster, Manchester stated:

I am the Housing Development Manager with the Manchester Housing & Redevelopment Authority. I just wanted to start by thanking you for the opportunity to speak and for your past and continuing support for the Housing Authority Program, in particular for your support tonight for the youth recreation programs and for the Brown School. I did mostly just want to bring people up-to-date. I thought there might be some interest in what is happening with the Brown School and I thought that this would be a good opportunity to bring people up-to-date. We have done most of the, well all of the due diligence at this point. We have taken care of the Phase I environmental work that needed to be done, surveys, title search, we have received a technical assistance loan from NH Housing Finance Authority to help us get over these initial hurdles and we have started working with an architect on at least some preliminary design plans. It looks at this point as though we might be able to get 31 units of elderly housing on the site. It is our intent to apply for funding next month with HUD through the Section 202 program and supplement that with tax credits with

an application in July. In any case, that is the current status. I thought I would bring you all up-to-date on what we are doing. Once again, thank you for your continuing assistance for all of our programs, not just those tonight but over the years.

Donna Coven-Tremblay, Manchester stated:

It is great to be here tonight. I get to learn from a lot of good people and see what is going on here. I am a third year teacher in the public school setting. I am a vocational teacher at the Manchester School of Technology. I am a 30-year veteran in the beauty industry and promoting wellness with young people. I visit all of the high schools. We cater to the surrounding area high schools – West, Central, Memorial, Goffstown, Londonderry, and Pinkerton. It is a great program, however, we are looking at renovating, which is a beautiful thing but that is not enough. We need more students on site for longer. The buses are coming in. We can help alleviate the overcrowding in the schools. We are getting students ready in the workforce adopting more with our advisory committees and getting into the community with co-op programs. I would like to propose that not just for renovations but to have a four-year program on site. Dover High School has one. It is wonderful. If we partnered up with our PASS Program, which is a high school graduating program right on site at the Manchester School of Technology, we could have so many students stay right on site and alleviate the busing and alleviate the high schools and offer four years to these students who love to work in the public and help people in holistic environments. They work in hospitals and in aesthetic environments. It is a beautiful thing to offer to these young people. They love the program. We want to house more students. There are three teachers. There are 160 students. There are three separate classrooms. We are challenged in the classroom because of the way...it was built wonderfully back in 1982, however to meet the future needs of these young people coming in...what is great is it is helping to promote their self-esteem. They are feeling better about their lives to get out there in the community to help others. We want to do more work in the community and I really would like to propose that you take a look at it, not just to be a renovation but to have a program that they can grow right on site from Freshman year into graduating as Seniors and go out into the community and open places and work with hospitals and get out in the community and make the world a better place. That is my vision. There is so much greatness going on in the program right now. You can see this on a daily basis. We see that these students are growing and they are helping one another and they are learning and we want to teach them and guide them more. Hopefully you will take a look at that. I want to thank you for hearing me this evening and hopefully I will come around again and see how this goes. Thank you.

Anne Sanderson, Manchester stated:

I am Vice President at the International Institute of NH. I am just going to take a couple of minutes to express my gratitude for your support in the past of our legal program at the International Institute of NH. We appreciate your keeping our proposal in your proposed budget and I would just like to say that this program has been in place without a break since

1927 in the City of Manchester serving the legal needs of immigrants. We look forward to your continued support.

Ellen Healy, Manchester stated:

I am President of the Manchester Education Association. First of all I would like to thank you all for the massive renovations that we are undergoing in our schools. You need to come by and take a look. Everything seems to be going pretty well. You will soon see a lot of not only smiling faces with the students but you will soon be seeing a lot more smiling faces with the teachers. With that being said, I am here to advocate this evening for the students that I teach and the teachers I represent. Class sizes in many of our classes exceed 30 students to 1 teacher. That is a very high amount. When you have class sizes exceeding any number over 25, not only are the kids missing out but it creates an unsafe working environment for both students and teachers. We are living in a different age ladies and gentlemen. Our students come from all parts of the world. Our students come from all economic backgrounds. We are teaching handicapped students. We are teaching students who don't speak English and we are facing the task. We are doing an exemplary job but we need your help. We need more teachers to better service the needs of these kids. We also need supplies in our classrooms – textbooks, paper, pencils, just the nitty gritty every day supplies that we need. I am not here asking for the world, believe me. Our contract is settled so we are not asking for money for ourselves. We are asking for additional funds to service the children that we provide a service to. I would also be remiss if I didn't ask for additional funding in our workshop and staff development and course reimbursement accounts. These areas are critical to the needs of our teachers who are undergoing certification and if you haven't noticed our certification costs have more than doubled in the past year. So these teachers need the opportunities for better staff development courses that are available. Last but not least, I hope that you will consider increasing the dollar amount to the school maintenance account. Ladies and gentlemen, you know yourselves if you build an addition you need to service what you have built. This is part of the problem that has been created over many years. Our schools have not been serviced properly. They are not being cleaned properly. Walk in any day. Come in to my classroom, Room 425 of the James Building at Central High School, first floor, the classroom right next to the bathroom. I will show you what it looks like. Next week is school vacation week. When I get back I will come in with my broom but that is not right either. We need to provide adequate funding for clean classrooms, as well as the maintenance that is required for the additions you are building otherwise the additions will fall apart. Thank you.

Charlene Kurtz, 1555 Bodwell Road, Manchester stated:

I am a fifth grade teacher at Henry Wilson School and I want to thank the Mayor and Aldermen for giving me the opportunity to speak and I plea to you about class size. I am a teacher at Wilson. We have a lot of challenges facing the demographic area of Wilson. Currently I have 17 students and it has been a very challenging year for me and I am faced with having 26 students next year in a very small room. We are a school of improvement

and we have many behavioral concerns and I just want...I invite you to come as the Mayor has come to my class and see what a day is like at Wilson. You just can serve children better if there is less of them. It is very simple so please make every consideration to hire more teachers so I can be effective in the classroom. I am very proud to teach in Manchester. I think there are a lot of wonderful things going on. I just want to be the best that I can be and if there are less children a better teacher for all of the students of Manchester. Thank you.

Fred Robinson, Manchester stated:

I am Executive Director at New Horizons at 199 Manchester Street and Angie's Shelter for Women at 434 Union Street. On behalf of our Board of Directors and myself I want to thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for their continued support for New Horizons and those we serve in the community. Your support enabled us to provide shelter and case management services to more than 850 sheltered individuals last year and assist them to access medical and mental health services on site at New Horizons, as well as on-site AA and NA programs. With the funding you provided we were also able to provide an average of 800 Manchester families a month with food and among those families are over 850 children. As we approach the end of the school year the numbers of families using the food pantry are likely to increase as children in low income families will not have the school lunch programs available to them during the summer. The support you have provided will also enable us to continue to serve the nearly 200 meals a day that are prepared and served by a staff of volunteers through the soup kitchen. As resources become increasingly difficult to acquire and distribute, we appreciate your efforts on behalf of those we provide services to in this growing City. I would also like to thank you for the CDBG funding we received last year for capital improvements. We just started putting a new roof on the pantry today now that it is going to be raining for three days. We invite you to stop by and see the results of those capital improvements that you provided us the funding for.

Mayor Baines stated first of all I would like to thank all of you for coming this evening. I know that I visited all of the organizations in this room many, many times since I have been Mayor and I want to thank you because I really feel that what you do in our community...you are really doing God's work and it is an honor to be in a position as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to support these very many needy organizations in our community. So I thank you for being here this evening and showing support for your organization. Also, Alderman DeVries asked that I announce that she is dealing with the Legislature this evening. I think things are pretty wild up in Concord.

Alderman Shea asked can we bring up a matter that happened last night, your Honor. I would like to bring up the matter that was presented to the Board last evening and I am asking my colleagues on the Board if we might take a vote to reconsider...

Mayor Baines interjected first of all to discuss anything you need unanimous consent. You would have to ask for unanimous consent to discuss the matter. Is that what you are asking for?

Alderman Shea responded yes.

Alderman Shea moved to bring up an item of new business. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked what is the issue.

Alderman Shea answered the issue that we are discussing has to do with the nomination of...

Mayor Baines interjected so you want an opportunity to discuss it this evening.

Alderman Shea replied that's right.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Shea asked should we do this in public session, your Honor.

Mayor Baines responded yes.

Alderman Shea stated well basically it has been called to our attention that the nominee for the School Board is filing or has filed...

Mayor Baines interjected instead of speculation let's just talk about the issue in general if we could without speculating on what the nominee may or may not have done. I would appreciate that.

Alderman Shea stated the nominee without going into detail has indicated or there are indications that there might be an ongoing situation existing within the School District and I guess the individual and, therefore, I think it probably would be in the best interest of the Board to have a period of time to examine that issue.

Mayor Baines stated the way you would be able to do something like that is first of all you would have to ask for reconsideration to get that back on the floor so you would have to have a motion to reconsider so that you can deal with that issue again if the Board so desires.

Alderman Shea moved for reconsideration. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated in fairness to the gentleman that Alderman Gatsas nominated last night, I happen to know of him. I probably have known him for 20 or 25 years. His wife probably around the same period. He went to Memorial and she went to West. I think we are doing the whole system an injustice by reconsidering. Could we have done something a little better last night? Absolutely but we are our worst enemy sometimes. I remember when...most of this group has been together for awhile. When nominations for any positions used to come in we always held it over to the next meeting then we got into the habit if it was a reappointment we would suspend the rules and confirm that night. Then we started to get in the habit of suspending the rules even if they were new appointments. So what we did last night was not unusual here. It would have been nice to have had the information up front but I think we are doing a great disservice to Mr. Langton and his family and to the residents of Ward 2 by doing anything different with this.

Alderman Porter stated I agree with Alderman O'Neil. I have been around this system as an appointed department head since 1981. Back in the mid-80's a suggestion was made by I believe Alderman Pepino that any nominations coming in, the individual had to be present. I would like to see this Board make a ruling that that be the case. I don't think it is quite as important on renominations because most of us do know them. Department heads no longer come up for reappointment so that is not an issue and, of course, all of the department heads are pretty well known by all of the Aldermen at any rate. I would like to make...I think we probably...

Mayor Baines interjected we can't do anything with that tonight. That is a separate issue.

Alderman Porter stated I would just like to express that I was a little bit disappointed in the way it happened, however, I am not going to change my vote on what happened last night. I don't think that would be fair to the individual and I think last night would have been the opportunity for us as Aldermen to have said no to the process, not the individual.

Alderman Lopez stated Carol I would like to ask a question. I don't think the reconsideration on the nominee is what we are talking about. I think it is a reconsideration on suspending the rules because some additional information has surfaced. I think that is all that is being asked is not to suspend the rules but let us search out the information so that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen have all of the information.

Mayor Baines stated well there isn't a motion on the floor right now anyway so if you want to make a motion like that we could discuss it.

Alderman Lopez stated I would sort of like to honor the nominee but because of information that has been provided we should not suspend the rules until we can search out the information.

Alderman O'Neil stated I understand there are a lot of rumors running around. What information is out there?

Mayor Baines responded again I would not engage this Board in rumors and innuendoes. I think if you are going to do anything I would ask you only...I would ask you not to do that. If the Board so desired to rescind the suspension of the rules then the nomination would be back at the regular Board meeting and you could, in fact, have a resume and information. I think the disappointment that I had last night and I expressed it is that when we present nominees to the Board in almost all cases we present resumes of the people that we are nominating. Again, I don't really know the gentleman. I think I may have talked to him once since I have been Mayor on an unrelated issue, which I didn't even recall until today but I don't think it is good practice for the Board to be acting on nominees without information about the nominee. I think the people of the community deserve better than what we gave them last night and I am very disappointed in that. Perhaps I should have been more forceful about that last night as well. Do you want to make that motion first? What would be the motion Carol?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated as I understand it right now there is a motion by Alderman Shea seconded by Alderman Thibault that was recognized for reconsideration of the motion to confirm the nomination. I know there is discussion about suspension of the rules and it is my understanding that the idea is to have this nomination come back at the next meeting by doing that...

Mayor Baines interjected so the motion would be...

Deputy City Clerk Johnson noted the person that was confirmed to that position has not taken their oath of office. The Clerk's Office could be directed not to give the oath of office or not to record any oath of office taken and to hold on to that and it can come back at the next meeting and that may resolve your problem without going any further or you could withdraw the suspension of the rules and it would come back at the next meeting. I am not sure where the Solicitor would rule in terms of whether that voids any actions that were taken but that certainly could come up at the next meeting of the Board.

Mayor Baines stated so the question is, Carol...it appears the motion could be to rescind the suspension of the rules and further to direct the Clerk not to administer the oath of office until after the next meeting. Is that what you would rather do?

Alderman Lopez responded I think that is my intention.

Mayor Baines stated well withdraw your motion and the second and I will accept that motion.

Alderman Shea withdrew his motion for reconsideration. Alderman Thibault withdrew his second.

Alderman Lopez moved to rescind the suspension of the rules on the confirmation and to direct the City Clerk's Office not to issue an oath of office. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez stated I don't want to get into any particular rumors either but I think we need to search this out. It is only fair and it is only our responsibility to do so and then make our decision. We are not going to hurt the nominee. I respect the nominee being appointed and voted for him but when additional information comes forward I feel that it is my responsibility to do what I just did.

Alderman Guinta stated I have a couple of questions. When was the oath of office originally to be administered?

Mayor Baines replied what happens is the nominee would go to the Clerk's Office to receive the oath.

Alderman Guinta asked at the nominees...so there is no timeline set by the City Clerk.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the City Clerk generally would send out a communication to the person who has been confirmed and they would come in. Some people come in before they get their letter.

Mayor Baines stated sometimes it happens that if the person is here that night the Clerk takes them downstairs and does it. It happens various ways. For us, it happens collectively on one occasion.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated and normally the School Board would also except that this was...

Alderman Guinta interjected I have a concern in that I didn't hear any of these rumors until it was brought up just now so I think we are already doing a disservice to this individual. I don't know how you would otherwise handle it but we are talking about somebody...I am not even sure why we are talking about this issue. I haven't heard the rumors that other people have heard so my concern now is Alderman Gatsas had to go to a pressing event and he is not here to talk about it and the nominee is not here to talk about it and yet we are talking about rumors and I am not even sure what the rumors are.

Mayor Baines stated I think I made it clear that I don't want to discuss any rumors.

Alderman Guinta responded I understand that but again we are adjusting the process based on rumors that we are not going to talk about. It is an awkward situation.

Mayor Baines stated it is. I think last night was an awkward situation as well. Again, as I stated I don't think we did ourselves proud last night notwithstanding this nomination or any other nomination by making a vote on somebody that no one knew but it happened and whatever the Board decides to do tonight we will deal with it.

Alderman Garrity stated we made our votes last night. I am with Alderman O'Neil and Alderman Porter. I am not going to change my vote on a rumor. I have known Alderman Gatsas for quite some time and I am sure he had a thorough interview process and I am going to trust his judgement on the interview process and things like that but I am not going to change my vote on a rumor. Thank you.

Alderman O'Neil stated it was brought up under new business. It is not uncommon that we take action on items very important to the City of Manchester under new business some of which we have a half hour heads up it is coming in and sometimes it hits us with about five seconds notice. I think we all need to admit that. If there was a problem with the process, then we need to make changes going forward but I think it is absolutely wrong to change any vote on this tonight. I would encourage my colleagues to vote against the motion.

Alderman Shea stated if you recall last evening I did bring up the fact that we had no information at all about the person that was nominated. I asked Alderman Gatsas at the time and he said he lives in Ward 2 period. So, basically we felt that in deference to our colleague we should go along with it, however, I still maintain as the Mayor does that we have had no information. In fairness to the gentleman and in fairness to everyone I think it is only fair...in fairness to us and to the citizens we represent it is only fair that we vote on someone that we know something about. This person is assuming a School Board position, which is very important in the regulation of the School Department or the School District as it were. I would urge my colleagues to support the motion of Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Smith stated I think the problem lies with us. We should enforce a policy that we have a written resume before we accept any nominee and I think if we went forward with this we wouldn't be in the position we are in now.

Mayor Baines responded I agree. No matter how you vote tonight I think the process needs to be revised. I am not going to speak either for or against the motion but the way I feel about this goes along with Alderman Shea. We are selecting somebody to be a member of the Board of School Committee. That is a very awesome responsibility and when you don't have the opportunity for people to go out and campaign and vote and we have a very important responsibility to examine the credentials and the qualifications of somebody for an

important position like that so we missed our opportunity last night. I regret it, however after the vote tonight we will have to move forward.

Alderman Osborne stated I think we should let our votes go forward. I think Alderman Gatsas, who is not here...I think the votes will take its course. If there is something a little wrong here I think the nominee himself will understand where we are going here tonight and use his own judgement as far as being sworn in. So, I think we should leave it alone.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. Alderman O'Neil requested a roll call vote.

Mayor Baines asked for clarification of the motion.

Clerk Thibault stated the motion is to rescind the suspension of the rules and direct the City Clerk's Office not to administer the oath.

Aldermen O'Neil, Garrity, Roy, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, and Porter voted nay. Aldermen Lopez, Shea, Smith, and Thibault voted yea. The motion failed.

Mayor Baines advised that all wishing to speak having been heard, the comments presented shall be taken under consideration with actions by the Board and reports by the Committee on Finance to be made at a later date and a motion to adjourn is in order.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk